

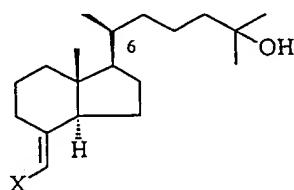
IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel Claim 1 and insert therefor new Claim 3 as follows:

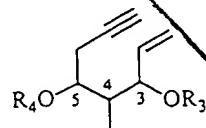
- 3. A 1, 25-dihydroxy-2-methylvitamin D₃ derivative, wherein the derivative is
- (i) (20S)-1 α , 25-dihydroxy-2 β -methyl-3 β -vitamin D₃;
- (ii) (20S)-1 β , 25-dihydroxy-2 β -methyl-3 α -vitamin D₃;
- (iii) (20S)-1 α , 25-dihydroxy-2 α -methyl-3 β -vitamin D₃; or
- (iv) (20S)-1 α , 25-dihydroxy-2 α -methyl-3 α -vitamin D₃. --

(Please cancel Claim 2 and insert therefor new Claim 4 as follows:)

- 4. A method for producing a vitamin D₃ derivative described in claim 3, comprising reacting an exo-methylene compound of formula (II):



wherein X is a bromine atom or an iodine atom, with an ene-yne compound of formula (III):



wherein R₃ and R₄ are each independently a hydrogen atom or a tri(C₁ to C₇ hydrocarbon)silyl group in the presence of a palladium catalyst, and optionally removing the protecting group of the tri(C₁ to C₇ hydrocarbon)silyl group,